JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

bMS

#### CIVIL COVER SHEET

18-cv-1395

The IS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

1-1									
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		$\overline{}$		DEFENDANTS		4 6			
LARION COLE			EGS FINANCIAL	CARE, INC	18	1	39	5	
(b) County of Residence of	f First Listed Plaintiff H	IINDS		County of Residence	of First Liste	d Defendant			
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(c) Attomcys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numbe			Attorneys (If Known)					
Octávio Gomez, 201 N F Telephone: (813) 223-55		Florida, 33602							
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VI CAUSE OF ACTION	N Brief description of ca	J.S.C 1692(d)							
VII. REQUESTED IN	☐ CHECK IF THIS	IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$		HECK YES only	if demonstrated	n comel-	int
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			•						
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#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

18 1395

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 525 Sharon Hills Dr, Jackson, MS 39212					
Address of Defendant: c/o 2595 Interstate Drive, Suite 103, Harrisbu	ırg, PA 19044				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Hinds, Mississippi					
(Use Reverse Side For	Additional Space)				
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a	- 741				
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes No.				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	lacksquare				
Case Number:Judge	Date Terminated:				
Civil cases are decined related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:					
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one y	rear previously terminated action in this court?				
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior	Yes No M				
2. Does unit case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior action in this court?	suit pending or within one year previously terminated				
	Yes□ No <b>X</b>				
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier	_, , _ ,				
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No <b>X</b>				
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil righ	ats case filed by the same individual?				
	Yes□ No <b>Œ</b>				
CIVIL: (Place V in one Category only)					
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:				
1. D Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts				
2. □ FELA	2.   Airplane Personal Injury				
3.   Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation				
4. Antitrust	4.   Marine Personal Injury				
5. Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury				
6.   Labor-Management Relations	6. D Other Personal Injury (Please specify)				
7. D Civil Rights	7. Products Liability				
8. D Haheas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos				
9. D Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases				
10. A Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)				
11 M All other Federal Question Cases	(Flease specify)				
(Please specify) TCPA, FDCPA					
ARBITRATION CERT	TIFICATION				
I,, counsel of record do hereby certi	fy:				
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and	belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of				
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.					
DATE:					
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#				
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	ere has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.				
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or except as noted above.					
DATE: 04/03/2018	APR - 3 2018				
Attorney-at-Law CIV. 609 (5/2012)	Attorney ID.#				



CLARION COLE,

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

**CIVIL ACTION** 

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EGS FINANCIAL	CARE, INC.	:	NO.		-	U	U	Ų
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(b) Social Security – Cases re and Human Services deny	questing reviewing plaintiff So	of a decision cial Security E	of the Secretary of Benefits.	Health		( )	)	
(c) Arbitration – Cases requir	ed to be designa	ated for arbitra	ation under Local C	ivil Rule 53.2	2.	( )	)	
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(e) Special Management – Ca commonly referred to as of the court. (See reverse side management cases.)	complex and tha	t need special	or intense manage	ment by		( )		
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04/03/2018 Date	Attorney-a	t-law	Clarion C Attorne				-	
(813) 223- 5505	(813) 222-	4725	TGomez@	ForThePeop	le.co	om	-	
Telephone	FAX Num	ber	E-Mail	Address				
(Ci., 660) 10/02								

(Civ. 660) 10/02

# MORGAN & MORGAN®

SUITE 700
ONE TAMPA CITY CENTER
TAMPA, FL 33602
(813) 223-5505
FAX: (813) 223-5402

March 29, 2018

Eastern District of Pennsylvania 2609 U.S. Courthouse 601 Market Street

Philadelphia, 19106-1797

RE: Cole, Clarion v EGS Financial Care

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find the following:

Civil Cover Sheet
Complaint & Exhibit A
Summons(es)
CD Containing the Above
Self-addressed stamped envelope

Please find the above listed documents and issue the Summons. I have included my firm check in the amount of \$400.00 which represents your filing fee. Once issued, please return the Summons(es) to my office in the self addressed stamped envelope enclosed.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either myself or my paralegal, Jennifer Sherwood.

Octovia Comez

OTG/cr

Sincere

www.forthepeople.com -

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#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA DIVISION

CLARION COLE,

Plaintiff,	CASE NO.:	18	1395
-V-			-000
EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC,			
Defendant/			

#### COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMES NOW Plaintiff, CLARION COLE, by and through the undersigned counsel, and sues Defendant, EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC., and in support thereof respectfully alleges violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq. ("TCPA") and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et. seq. ("FDCPA").

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. The TCPA was enacted to prevent companies like EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. from invading American citizen's privacy and prevent abusive "robo-calls."
- 2. "The TCPA is designed to protect individual consumers from receiving intrusive and unwanted telephone calls." *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, -US--, 132 S.Ct. 740, 745, 181 L.Ed. 2d 881 (2012).
- 3. "Senator Hollings, the TCPA's sponsor, described these calls as 'the scourge of modern civilization, they wake us up in the morning; they interrupt our dinner at night; they force the sick and elderly out of bed; they hound us until we want to rip the telephone out of the wall.' 137 Cong. Rec. 30, 821 (1991). Senator Hollings presumably intended to give telephone

subscribers another option: telling the auto-dialers to simply stop calling." *Osorio v. State Farm Bank, F.S.B.*, 746 F. 3d 1242. 1256 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014).

4. According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), "Unwanted calls and texts are the number one complaint to the FCC. There are thousands of complaints to the FCC every month on both telemarketing and robocalls. The FCC received more than 215,000 TCPA complaints in 2014." https://www.fcc.gov/document/fact-sheet-consumer-protection-proposal.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This is an action for damages exceeding Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) exclusive of attorney fees and costs.
- 6. Jurisdiction and venue for purposes of this action are appropriate and conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 1331, Federal Question Jurisdiction, as this action involves violations of the TCPA.
- 7. Subject matter jurisdiction, federal question jurisdiction, for purposes of this action is appropriate and conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 1331, which provides that the district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States; and this action involves violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii). See Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC, S.Ct. 740, 748 (2012) and Osorio v. State Farm Bank, F.S.B., 746 F.3d 1242, 1249 (11th Cir. 2014)
- 8. The Defendant is located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Accordingly, venue is appropriate with this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(1), as it is the judicial district in which the Defendant resides.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 9. Plaintiff is a natural person, and citizen of the State of Mississippi, residing in Hinds County, Mississippi.
  - 10. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692(a)(3).
  - 11. Plaintiff is an "alleged debtor."
- 12. Plaintiff is the "called party." See *Breslow v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 755 F. 3d 1265 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) and *Osorio v. State Farm Bank, F.S.B.*, 746 F. 3d 1242 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014).
- 13. Defendant, EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC., is a corporation which was formed in Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located at Horsham Corporate Center, 400 Horsham Boulevard, Suite 130, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044 and which conducts business in the State of Pennsylvania through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company located at 2595 Interstate Drive, Suite 103, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110.
- 14. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. called Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone approximately one-hundred (100) times in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 15. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. attempted to collect an alleged debt from the Plaintiff by this campaign of telephone calls.
- 16. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. intentionally harassed and abused Plaintiff on numerous occasions by calling several times during one day, and on back to back days, with such frequency as can reasonably be expected to harass.
- 17. Upon information and belief, some or all of the calls the Defendant made to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number were made using an "automatic telephone dialing system" which has the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator (including but not limited to a predictive dialer) or an artificial or prerecorded voice; and to dial such numbers as specified by 47 U.S.C § 227(a)(1) (hereinafter

"auto-dialer calls"). Plaintiff will testify that she knew it was an auto-dialer because of the vast number of calls she received and because she heard a pause when she answered her phone before a voice came on the line and/or she received prerecorded messages before a voice came on the line from EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC..

- 18. Plaintiff is the subscriber, regular user and carrier of the cellular telephone number (769) \*\*\*-8800, and was the called party and recipient of Defendant's calls.
- 19. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. placed an exorbitant number of automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone (769) \*\*\*-8800 in an attempt to collect on a credit card debt.
- 20. Upon receipt of the calls from Defendant, Plaintiff's caller ID identified the calls were being initiated from, but not limited to, the following telephone numbers: (903) 209-2635, (903) 209-2637, (430) 775-1070, (430) 775-1072, (430) 775-1073, (623) 404-6948, (480) 935-6828, (215) 440-6677, (304) 820-0735, (412) 694-1902, (334) 310-6203, (334) 310-6205, and (430) 775-1074.
- 21. On several occasions over the last four (4) years, Plaintiff instructed EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC.'s agents to stop calling her cellular telephone.
- 22. In or about December 2017, and on many other occasions Plaintiff answered a call to her aforementioned cellular telephone number. Plaintiff was connected to an agent/representative of Defendant and informed the agent/representative to please stop calling her cellular telephone and that this was harassment.
- 23. In or about February 2018, and on many other occasions Plaintiff answered a call to her aforementioned cellular telephone number. Plaintiff was connected to an agent/representative of Defendant and informed the agent/representative to please stop calling her.

- 24. Due to the tremendous volume of calls Plaintiff received over a lengthy period of time; she was not able to properly catalogue each and every call. However, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a small sampling of some of the automated calls Plaintiff received to her cellular telephone from Defendant.
- 25. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has a corporate policy to use an automatic telephone dialing system or a pre-recorded or artificial voice to individuals just as it did to the Plaintiff's cellular telephone in this case.
- 26. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has a corporate policy to use an automatic telephone dialing system or a pre-recorded or artificial voice, just as it did to the Plaintiff's cellular telephone in this case, with no way for the consumer, or EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC., to remove the number.
- 27. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC.'s corporate policy is structured as to continue to call individuals like the Plaintiff, despite these individuals explaining to EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. they wish for the calls to stop.
- 28. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has numerous other federal lawsuits pending against them alleging similar violations as stated in this Complaint.
- 29. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has numerous complaints against them across the country asserting that their automatic telephone dialing system continues to call despite being requested to stop.
- 30. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has had numerous complaints from consumers against them across the country asking to not be called, however the Defendant continues to call the consumers.

- 31. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC.'s corporate policy provided no means for the Plaintiff to have her number removed from the call list.
- 32. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has a corporate policy to harass and abuse individuals despite actual knowledge that the called parties do not wish to be called.
- 33. None of EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC.'s telephone calls placed to Plaintiff were for "emergency purposes" as specified in 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A).
- 34. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. willfully and knowingly violated the TCPA with respect to the Plaintiff.
- 35. From each and every call placed without express consent by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, Plaintiff suffered the injury of invasion of privacy and the intrusion upon her right of seclusion.
- 36. From each and every call without express consent placed by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, Plaintiff suffered the injury of the occupation of her cellular telephone line and cellular telephone by unwelcome calls, making the telephone unavailable for legitimate callers or outgoing calls while the telephone was ringing from EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC.'s call.
- 37. From each and every call placed without express consent by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, Plaintiff suffered the injury of unnecessary expenditure of her time. For calls she answered, the time she spent on the call was unnecessary as she had repeatedly asked for the calls to stop. Even for unanswered calls, Plaintiff had to waste time to unlock the telephone and deal with missed call notifications and call logs that reflected the unwanted calls. This also impaired the usefulness of these features of Plaintiff's cellular telephone, which are designed to inform the user of important missed communications.

- 38. Each and every call placed without express consent by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone was an injury in the form of a nuisance and annoyance to Plaintiff. For calls that were answered, Plaintiff had to go to the unnecessary trouble of answering them. Even for unanswered calls, Plaintiff had to waste time to unlock the telephone and deal with missed call notifications and call logs that reflected the unwanted calls. This also impaired the usefulness of these features of Plaintiff's cellular telephone, which are designed to inform the user of important missed communications.
- 39. Each and every call placed without express consent by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone resulted in the injury of unnecessary expenditure of Plaintiff's cellular telephone's battery power.
- 40. Each and every call placed without express consent by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone where a voice message was left which occupied space in Plaintiff's telephone or network.
- 41. Each and every call placed without express consent by EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. to Plaintiff's cellular telephone resulted in the injury of a trespass to Plaintiff's chattel, namely her cellular telephone and her cellular telephone services.
- 42. As a result of the calls described above, Plaintiff suffered an invasion of privacy. Plaintiff was also affect in a personal and individualized way by raising her blood pressure, embarrassment, and anxiety.

### COUNT I (Violation of the TCPA)

43. Plaintiff fully incorporates and re-alleges paragraphs one (1) through forty-two (42) as if fully set forth herein.

- 44. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. willfully violated the TCPA with respect to the Plaintiff, especially for each of the auto-dialer calls made to Plaintiff's cellular telephone after Plaintiff notified EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. that she wished for the calls to stop.
- 45. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. repeatedly placed non-emergency telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone using an automatic telephone dialing system or prerecorded or artificial voice without Plaintiff's prior express consent in violation of federal law, including 47 U.S.C § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable and judgment against EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. for statutory damages, punitive damages, actual damages, treble damages, enjoinder from further violations of these parts and any other such relief the court may deem just and proper.

## COUNT II (Violation of the FDCPA)

- 46. Plaintiff fully incorporates and re-alleges paragraphs one (1) through forty-two (42) as if fully set forth herein.
- 47. At all times relevant to this action EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. is subject to and must abide by 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.
- 48. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692(d) by willfully engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 49. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692(d)(5) by causing a telephone to ring or engaging any person in telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number.

50. EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. has violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692(f) by using unfair and unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable and judgment against EGS FINANCIAL CARE, INC. for statutory damages, punitive damages, actual damages, costs, interest, attorney fees, enjoinder from further violations of these parts and any other such relief the court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted

Octavio Gomez, Esquire Pennsylvania Bar No.:

325066

Morgan & Morgan, Tampa, P.A.

One Tampa City Center

201 North Franklin Street, 7th Floor

Tampa, Florida 33602 Telephone: (813) 223-5505 Facsimile: (813) 223-5402

Primary Email: TGomez@ForThePeople.com Secondary Email: JSherwood@ForThePeople.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

Octavio Gomez

### Call Log for (769) \*\*\*- 8800

Date of Call:	Time of Call:	Phone Number:
02/02/2018	9:22AM	(903) 209- 2637
02/02/2018	10:03AM	(903) 209- 2637
02/02/2018	1:23PM	(903) 209- 2637
02/02/2018	4:28PM	(903) 209- 2637
02/03/2018	9:00AM	(430) 775- 1070
02/03/2018	11:36AM	(430) 775- 1070
02/03/2018	2:55PM	(430) 775- 1070
02/03/2018	6:02PM	(430) 775- 1070
02/05/2018	9:08AM	(430) 775- 1072
02/05/2018	9:59AM	(430) 775- 1072
02/05/2018	1:13PM	(430) 775- 1072
02/05/2018	2:35PM	(430) 775- 1072
02/05/2018	5:45PM	(430) 775- 1072
02/06/2018	9:01AM	(430) 775- 1073
02/06/2018	10:29AM	(430) 775- 1073
02/06/2018	12:58PM	(430) 775- 1073
02/06/2018	2:29AM	(430) 775- 1073
02/06/2018	6:57PM	(430) 775- 1073
02/07/2018	9:13AM	(430) 775- 1074
02/07/2018	12:59PM	(430) 775- 1074
02/07/2018	3:03PM	(430) 775- 1074
02/07/2018	4:24PM	(430) 775- 1074
02/08/2018	11:24AM	(334) 310- 6205
02/08/2018	1:15PM	(334) 310- 6205
02/08/2018	3:44PM	(334) 310- 6205
02/08/2018	6:07PM	(334) 310- 6205
02/09/2018	9:32AM	(334) 310- 6203
02/09/2018	12:40PM	(412) 694- 1902
02/09/2018	4:19PM	(304) 820- 0735
02/09/2018	5:54PM	(215) 440- 6677
02/10/2018	9:50AM	(480) 935- 6828
02/10/2018	12:47PM	(251) 587-6105
02/10/2018	3:22PM	(623) 404- 6948